

USA TIMES



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Obama to unveil \$1.5T tax plan

WASHINGTON - Drawing a bright line with congressional Republicans, President Barack Obama is proposing \$1.5 trillion in new tax revenue as part of his long-term deficit reduction plan, according to senior administration officials.

The president on Monday will announce a proposal that includes repeal of Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers, nearly \$250 billion in reductions in Medicare spending, \$330 billion in cuts in other mandatory benefit programs, and savings of \$1 trillion from the withdrawal of troops from Iraq and Afghanistan, the officials said.

The plan includes no changes in Social Security and does not include an increase in the Medicare eligibility age, which the president had considered this summer.

All in all, the president's plan is as much an opening bid as it is a political statement designed to draw contrasts with Republicans, who control the House of Representatives.

As such, it was not intended as a compromise and did not include agreements Obama had reached with House Speaker John

Boehner during failed deficit reduction negotiations this summer.

The new taxes in particular have little or no chance of passing Congress as proposed. Republicans were already lining up against the president's tax proposal before they even knew the magnitude of what he intended to recommend.

Key features of the proposal:

- \$1.5 trillion in new revenue, which would include about \$800 billion realized over 10 years from repealing the Bush-era tax rates for couples making more than \$250,000. It also would place limits on deductions for wealthy filers and end certain corporate loopholes and subsidies for oil and gas companies.

- \$580 billion in cuts in mandatory benefit programs, including \$248 billion in Medicare and \$72 billion in Medicaid and other health programs. Other mandatory benefit programs include farm subsidies.

- \$430 billion in savings from lower interest payment on the national debt.

WORLD NEWS

QUAKE SHAKES HIMALAYAS

GAUHATI, India - Rescue workers raced Monday to clear roads blocked by mudslides as they scrambled to reach remote villages cut off after a powerful earthquake killed at least 50 people in northeast India, Nepal and Tibet.

Hundreds of paramilitary soldiers and local police working through the night cleared away concrete slabs, bricks and mud to rescue scores of people trapped under the debris of houses that collapsed after a 6.9-magnitude quake struck the mountainous Himalayan region Sunday evening.

At least 25 people died in the northeastern Indian state of Sikkim, where the quake was centered near India's border with Nepal, police said.

YEMENI FORCES OPEN FIRE ON PROTESTERS, 26 KILLED

SANAA, Yemen - Yemeni government forces opened fire with anti-aircraft guns and automatic weapons on tens of thousands of anti-government protesters in the capital demanding ouster of their longtime ruler, killing at least 26 and wounding dozens, medical officials and witnesses said.

After nightfall, Sanaa sank into complete darkness after a sudden power outage, as protesters took control of a vital bridge, halting traffic and setting up tents. Thousands of other protesters attacked government buildings and set fires to buildings they said were used by snipers and pro-government thugs.

CONJOINED TWINS SEPARATED

LONDON - A pair of Sudanese twins born with the tops of their heads stuck together have been separated in a rare and risky series of operations at a London children's hospital, officials said Sunday.

Facing the World, a charity which helps disfigured children, said it had helped fund the four-stage operation to split 11-month-old Rital Gaboura from her sister, Ritag. Twins born joined at the head are known as craniopagus twins and they occur in about one in 2.5 million births. Splitting them can be dangerous, especially if - as in this case - there's significant blood flow between their brains.

'Modern Family,' 'Mad Men' win big at Emmys

LOS ANGELES - The Emmys keep buying what "Mad Men" is selling. The 1960s Madison Avenue saga won its fourth consecutive best drama series award Sunday, while big-hearted romp "Modern Family" claimed its second best comedy trophy.

While "Mad Men" gained the top drama award, it couldn't pull honors for stars Jon Hamm or Elisabeth Moss.

Kyle Chandler was the surprise winner in the best drama actor category for the last season of Texas football drama "Friday Night Lights," blocking odds-on favorites among his fellow nominees, including Hamm.

Julianna Margulies won top drama acting honors for "The Good Wife." Margulies, who navigates politics, law and family in the show, added to her Emmy stash. As part of

the "ER" medical drama cast, she won a supporting actress Emmy in 1995.

Melissa McCarthy of "Mike & Molly" was honored as best lead actress in a comedy series with an Emmy and a glitzy prom queen's crown, while Jim Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory" earned his second trophy in the best actor category.

The first awards in the drama category went to Jason Katims of "Friday Night Lights" for outstanding writing, and Margo Martindale, named best supporting actress for the show "Justified."

The directing trophy was the sole award Sunday for "Boardwalk Empire," HBO's lavishly produced tale of Prohibition-era mobsters and crooked politicians on the make in freewheeling Atlantic City, N.J.

WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

24hr period ending 7 a.m.	Hi	Lo	EST	Monday
				Weather
Amsterdam	59	48	rn	
Athens	86	73	cl	
Auckland	59	48	rn	
Berlin	59	50	rn	
Brussels	59	50	rn	
Cairo	92	73	cl	
Copenhagen	61	54	rn	
Dublin	59	50	rn	
Geneva	64	48	rn	
Hong Kong	89	83	rn	
Istanbul	86	71	cl	
Johannesburg	75	51	cl	
London	78	61	pc	
Madrid	86	77	rn	
Manila	86	60	pc	
Moscow	62	48	rn	
New Delhi	89	77	pc	
Paris	62	48	rn	
Rome	86	62	cl	
Singapore	88	77	rn	
Stockholm	59	46	pc	
Sydney	87	57	pc	
Tokyo	87	57	cl	
Toronto	65	53	cl	
Zurich	63	48	rn	

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	36	44	Cloudy
Atlanta	77	58	Cloudy
Boston	66	51	Clear
Chicago	61	55	Cloudy
Dallas/Ft Worth	94	73	pcldy
Denver	76	43	Clear
Great Falls	69	44	Rain
Houston	87	74	Cloudy
Kansas City	70	57	Clear
Las Vegas	94	69	Clear
Los Angeles	78	53	Clear
Miami Beach	91	80	pcldy
Mpls/St Paul	61	55	Clear
New Orleans	90	75	Rain
New York City	68	53	Clear
Phoenix	101	75	Clear
Salt Lake City	77	52	Clear
San Francisco	81	55	Clear
Seattle	65	56	pcldy
Washington, D.C.	68	53	Cloudy
National Temperature Extremes:			
High Sunday 103 at Gila Bend, Ariz.			
Low Sunday 24 at Pinedale, Wyo.			

Bikers found dead in RV

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. - Five bikers were found dead Sunday in a recreational vehicle at a Tennessee speedway and an organizer for the motorcycle festival blamed the deaths on fumes from a generator.

Three men and two women were found in the RV at the Clarksville Speedway about noon and there was no sign of foul play, Clarksville police spokesman Jim Knoll said.

Bill Langford, the director of the event Bikers Who Care, said he headed to the scene on a four-wheeler when an ambulance and a fire truck arrived.

"One of our club members came over and said, 'Bill, I don't know if you've heard, but they're all dead,'" he said.

Langford said the bikers' group was like a close-knit family and he was close friends with the people who had died. He identified them as a married couple who had 8-month-old twins. The man was a truck driver and his wife was a school teacher.

Plane had 'radical' changes to compete

RENO, Nev. - The World War II-era plane that plummeted into an air-race crowd like a missile bore little resemblance to its original self. It was rebuilt for speed, if not for stability.

The 65-year-old "Galloping Ghost" underwent years of massive overhauls that took a full 10 feet off its wingspan. The ailerons - the back edges of the main wings used to control balance - were cut from about 60 inches to 32.

Pilot Jimmy Leeward had said the changes made the P-51 Mustang faster and more maneuverable, but in the months before Friday's crash even he wasn't certain exactly how it would perform.

"I know it'll do the speed," he said in a podcast uploaded to YouTube in June. "The systems aren't proven yet. We think they're going to be OK."

DSK denies violence in sex assault cases

PARIS - Dominique Strauss-Kahn broke his silence four months after a New York hotel maid accused him of sexual assault, calling his encounter with the woman a "moral failing" he deeply regrets, but insisting in an interview on French television Sunday that no violence was involved.

Strauss-Kahn, the former head of the International Monetary Fund and a one-time top presidential contender in his native France, also denied using violence against a French writer who claims he tried to rape her in a separate 2003 incident.

Throughout what appeared to be a heavily scripted 20-minute-long interview with French broadcaster TF1, Strauss-Kahn managed to come off as contrite even as the Socialist politician insisted he hadn't forced

Investigators don't yet know what caused the plane to pitch sharply into the crowd at the National Championship Air Races in Reno, killing nine people, including Leeward, and injuring dozens.

They have focused on the "elevator trim tab" - a piece of the tail that helps the control the aircraft's pitch and appeared to break off before the crash. While investigators did not identify the items, the NTSB released a photo late Sunday of two board officials at the crash site with items they said were part of the investigation.

In the highly competitive, bravado-filled world of air racing, pilots go for broke on the ground and in the sky, hitting speeds of 500 mph. Leeward is the 20th pilot to die at the air races since they began 47 years ago, but Friday's crash was the first in which spectators were killed.

himself on either of the women.

He said his May 14 sexual encounter with Nafissatou Diallo, an African immigrant who claimed that he attacked her when she entered his room in a Manhattan hotel to clean it, "did not involve violence, constraint or aggression."

Still, he acknowledged, it "was a moral failing and I am not proud of it. I regret it infinitely. I have regretted it everyday for the past four months and I think I'm not done regretting it."

It "was not only an inappropriate relationship, but more than that, it was a failing... a failing vis-a-vis my wife, my children and my friends but also a failing vis-a-vis the French people, who had vested their hopes for change in me."

Desegregation plans go back to court

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - More than a half-century after federal troops escorted nine black students into an all-white school, efforts to desegregate Little Rock's classrooms are at another turning point.

The state wants to end its long-running payments for desegregation programs, but three school districts that receive the money say they need it to continue key programs.

And a federal judge has accused the schools of delaying desegregation so they can keep receiving an annual infusion of \$70 million.

A federal appeals court will hear arguments Monday from both sides. The judges are expected to decide eventually whether Arkansas still has to make the payments and whether two of the districts should remain under court supervision.

Diplomats scramble ahead of Palestinian UN bid

NEW YORK - With a tense week ahead for the future of the Middle East, the United States and Europe scrambled Sunday for a strategy that would help avoid a jarring showdown over whether to admit an independent Palestine as a new United Nations member. Instead, they sought to guide Israel and the Palestinians back into the tough bargaining on a long-sought peace agreement.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton discussed the current trajectory in New York, in which the Palestinian plan to gain statehood and membership at the U.N. would run headfirst into an American veto in the Security Council, and possible Israeli recriminations.

Yet there was no apparent and immediate

solution to the many problems that have hindered Mideast peace efforts for months. Diplomats were working feverishly as part of an increasingly desperate effort to guide the two parties back into direct negotiations, but were tight-lipped on whether the slim chances for a breakthrough were improving.

"We are meeting to talk about the way forward," Clinton said as she shook hands with Ashton in a New York hotel. She declined to say if mediators were making progress.

The Palestinians are frustrated by their inability to win from Israel concessions such as a freeze on settlements in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. And with violence out of the question and bilateral talks with Israel failing, they see the U.N. route as the only viable route for progress in the short term.

Deal to free jailed Americans hits snag

TEHRAN, Iran - A bail-for-freedom deal for two Americans jailed as spies in Iran hit a snag Sunday because a judge whose signature is needed on the bail papers was on vacation, the prisoners' lawyer said, dashing hopes for their immediate release.

The attorney, Masoud Shafiei, said he could not complete the paperwork on the \$1 million bail deal because a second judge who must sign the documents is on vacation until Tuesday. One judge already signed the papers Saturday.

"I have no choice but to wait until Tuesday," Shafiei told The Associated Press. Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal, both 29 years

old, have been jailed for more than two years in a case that has deepened the mistrust between Iran and the United States.

They were detained along the Iran-Iraq border in July 2009 with their friend Sarah Shourd. She was released last September with mediation by the Gulf nation of Oman after \$500,000 was paid.

The men were convicted of spying for the United States and illegally entering Iran and were each sentenced last month to eight years in prison. They denied the charges and appealed the verdicts, opening the way for the possible deal to free them in exchange for \$500,000 bail each.

Man shoots church pastors, kills wife

LAKELAND, Fla. - As the congregation bowed their heads and prayed, a former church member stormed into the church and opened fire, shooting the pastor and associate pastor from behind before he was wrestled to the ground.

Earlier, Jeremiah Fogle shot his wife to death at his house, where he had started his own church, authorities and relatives said. They did not know what led to the shootings.

Derrick Foster, a teacher in the ministry, heard the gunfire, then screams and he and another man tackled Fogle.

"The first thing in my mind was, 'I have to take this gun away,'" said Foster, who was

among the 20 or so people at the Sunday service at Greater Faith Christian Center Church.

Foster saw the man near the pulpit, turning around with the gun in his hand.

"He had a great grip on the gun," Foster said. "My plan was, as soon as he hit the floor, it would cause him to drop it. But he didn't drop it."

He said it took three or four minutes of struggling with the gunman before he finally wrested the weapon away.

The gunman had six rounds in his pocket. "He was prepared to shoot even more," Sheriff Grady Judd said.

CELEBRITY NEWS

WINSLET WINS 1ST EMMY

Kate Winslet had barely collected the first Emmy of a distinguished career when she was asked about her real-life role as a life saver.

The British actress sprang into action in August when she helped rescue Richard Branson's 90-year-old mother from a fire that destroyed his Caribbean home, where Winslet was a guest with her two young children.

"I so knew I was going to get questions about the fire," she said, laughing backstage at Sunday's Primetime Emmy Awards.

"I was in the right place at the right time to help Eve out of the house," Winslet said about Branson's mother.

Winslet won an Emmy as lead actress in a miniseries or a movie for HBO's "Mildred Pierce." It gives her another shiny gold statuette to go with the Oscar she won for "Shakespeare in Love."

SHEEN GRACIOUS AS PRESENTER

The latest stop on Charlie Sheen's bury-the-hatchet tour was Sunday's 63rd annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

The fired star of "Two and a Half Men" appeared at the awards ceremony to present the lead actor in a comedy series award. Or as Sheen called it, "My old category."

But before he did, he took time to mend some fences. "From the bottom of my heart, I wish you nothing but the best for this upcoming season. We spent eight wonderful years together and I know you will continue to make great television," Sheen said.

BALDWIN JOKE NIXED

Leonard Nimoy was a last-minute sub for Alec Baldwin on the Emmy Awards opening because of a flap over a joke about News Corp.'s phone hacking scandal.

Alec Baldwin had taped the segment, playing a fictional president of the television academy, with show host Jane Lynch. But Baldwin asked that he be left out when Fox nixed the joke that referenced the hacking scandal in Britain involving the now-closed News of the World tabloid. Both Fox and News of the World are owned by News Corp.

3-D 'Lion King' enjoys \$29.3M opening

LOS ANGELES - It's 1994 all over again, with a re-release of "The Lion King" opening at the top of the box office.

A 3-D version of the wildly popular Disney animated musical earned a surprising \$29.3 million in its first weekend in theaters, according to Sunday estimates. The original film made more than \$40 million when it opened nationwide 17 years ago.

This huge number stunned many people, including the folks at Disney, who figured "The Lion King" would make somewhere between \$10 million and \$12 million, said Dave Hollis, the studio's executive vice president of distribution.

He said the movie remains relevant and as entertaining as it was when it first came out.

"But taking a page from the movie, there is a 'circle of life' thing happening," he said, referring to one of the film's themes. "You have children of the '90s who are now parents of the 2010s and they themselves are taking their kids to share what was, for them, a great experience two decades ago."

It also helps that there aren't many options for families at the multiplex right now, said

Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

"The post-summer period brings a preponderance of R-rated films and more challenging, esoteric, Oscar-caliber fare," he said. "For kids this is like a dream come true and for parents to be able to revisit 'The Lion King' - especially in 3-D, even though 3-D has taken a bad rap over the past year - just tells you the power that this movie has, how strong it resonates with people."

Hollis said that while the film was also available in 2-D, 92 percent of the opening weekend's business came from 3-D showings.

The story of a wrongly exiled lion prince (voiced by Jonathan Taylor Thomas as a cub and Matthew Broderick as an adult) who must return home to claim his throne, "The Lion King" was the second-highest-grossing film of 1994, behind "Forrest Gump."

It ranks fourth on the all-time animated list with over \$784 million. It earned Academy Awards for Hans Zimmer's original score and for original song for Elton John and Tim Rice's "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

Officials say beaver teeth are 7 million years old

ALBANY, Ore. - The Bureau of Land Management says a fossil found by employees on federal land represents the earliest record of living beavers in North America. The pair of teeth was found on BLM land in northeast Oregon.

The Albany Democrat-Herald reports the

teeth come from the Rattlesnake Formation and are 7 to 7.3 million years old.

The BLM says the earliest beavers were found in Germany 10 to 12 million years ago and the animals spread across Asia, eventually crossing the Bering Land Bridge to North America.

It's a mod, mod world at Emmys after-party

LOS ANGELES - Perched atop 5-inch heels, Julianna Margulies stood sipping a glass of blush wine while accepting a wave of congratulations and hugs from well-wishers. She soon plucked her Emmy statuette from the table and handed it to her hubby to carry.

Margulies' cream dress fit right in with the theme for the official after-party of the 63rd annual Primetime Emmy Awards - black and white with a touch of gold. She earned her golden trophy as best actress in a drama series

for "The Good Wife." Celebrating with Margulies was co-star Christine Baranski.

Partygoers at the Governors Ball craned their heads to watch a woman perform an aerial act in the upper reaches of the West Hall of the Los Angeles Convention Center on Sunday night. Living art performers dressed in black-and-white were perched on pedestals. Black-and-white carpet lined the path to the sprawling party space decorated in the theme of mod illusions.

DID YOU KNOW?

LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'?

SPORTS: Who won soccer's World Cup in 1994?

GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Nigeria?

(Answers on Page 8)

Online gamers crack scientific puzzle

PORTLAND, Ore. - Scientists were stumped. For more than a decade, biochemists could not fully decipher the structure of a key protein, called a protease, that retroviruses such as HIV need to multiply. Knowing it would be a key step toward developing better anti-viral drugs.

So University of Washington scientists unleashed an avid group of online gamers. Within three furious weeks of play, pitting teams of non-scientists against each other, the gamers delivered the first accurate model of a retroviral protease. Knowing the structure is a key step toward finding better anti-viral drugs.

"It's the power of citizen science," says Firas Khatib, a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of UW biochemistry professor David Baker. Baker's laboratory developed the game, called Foldit, about three years ago, believing that they could tap some of the brain power that puzzle-loving humans pour into computer games.

There are many examples of crowdsourcing in science, but most involve citizens helping out with drudgery, such as submitting data on animal sightings or running distributed computing programs on a home computer.

Foldit players are providing answers beyond the capabilities of experts in the field.

Solving protein structures remains one of the most difficult problems in science. Proteins take shape from a strand of building blocks, called amino acids. Genes tell a cell's protein-making machinery the order for assembling the building blocks in an orderly long strand.

When a complex protein, such as an HIV protease, comes off the assembly line, it coils and folds to form an intricate molecular machine. Imagine, say, a sewing machine self-assembling from hundreds of parts arrayed on a string.

SPORTS NEWS

Vick hurt as Eagles lose

ATLANTA - Michael Vick wobbled off the field with an aching neck late in the third quarter, all done in his return to Atlanta as a starting quarterback.

This is Matt Ryan's city now, and he led the Falcons back with their former quarterback sitting in the locker room.

Ryan threw a career-high four touchdown passes, shaking off all the hoopla over Vick coming back to face his old team, and rallied Atlanta from a 10-point deficit for a 35-31 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

Two of Ryan's TD throws went to ageless tight end Tony Gonzalez, who went past Terrell Owens into the fifth spot on the NFL's career receiving list. Then, Ryan hooked up with Ovie Mughelli on a 1-yard score that brought Atlanta to 31-28 with just over 6 minutes remaining.

The Falcons (1-1) completed the comeback with Michael Turner breaking off a 61-yard run, then powering over from the 3 with 3:24 remaining. Turner finished with 114 yards on 21 carries.

"It was a wild one, for sure, but we hung in there," Ryan said. "I think everybody hung in there and kept making plays, kept battling. Credit to guys on both sides of the ball - we never gave up."

Vick threw for a pair of touchdowns for the Eagles (1-1) but left with what coach Andy Reid later described as a concussion after getting spun by a Falcons rusher into Eagles lineman Todd Herremans. No. 7 staggered to the sideline and Mike Kafka came in for the first game of his two-year career.

Vince Young, normally the backup, was inactive because of a hamstring injury.

Kafka did a good job in a tough situation, guiding the Eagles down the field on a potentially winning drive in the closing minutes. But on fourth down from Atlanta's 22, Jeremy Maclin dropped a pass over the middle that would have kept it going.

The Falcons ran off all but the last 5 seconds, and Kafka's desperation heave into the end zone was batted down to end the game.

Rays cut Boston's lead

BOSTON - The ball struck David Price in the chest and bounced in the air, a line drive that had a chance to devastate the Tampa Bay Rays' playoff chances.

SUNDAY'S SCOREBOARD

NFL

Washington	22	Arizona	21
Tennessee	26	Baltimore	13
New Orleans	30	Chicago	13
Cleveland	27	Indianapolis	19
Green Bay	30	Carolina	23
N.Y. Jets	32	Jacksonville	3
Detroit	48	Kansas City	3
Buffalo	38	Oakland	35
Pittsburgh	24	Seattle	0
Tampa Bay	24	Minnesota	20
Dallas	27	San Francisco	24 OT
Denver	24	Cincinnati	22
Houston	23	Miami	13
New England	35	San Diego	21
Atlanta	35	Philadelphia	31

MLB: AMERICAN LEAGUE

Toronto	3	N.Y. Yankees	0
L.A. Angels	11	Baltimore	2
Tampa Bay	8	Boston	5
Chicago White Sox	10	Kansas City	5
Cleveland	6	Minnesota	5
Detroit	3	Oakland	0
Texas	3	Seattle	0

MLB: NATIONAL LEAGUE

Milwaukee	8	Cincinnati	1
Washington	4	Florida	3
N.Y. Mets	7	Atlanta	5
Houston	3	Chicago Cubs	2
San Francisco	12	Colorado	5
Arizona	5	San Diego	1
L.A. Dodgers	15	Pittsburgh	1
St. Louis	5	Philadelphia	0

WNBA PLAYOFFS

Atlanta	69	Connecticut	64
San Antonio	84	Minnesota	75

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

New England	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	73	45
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1.000	79	42
Miami	0	2	0	1.000	59	27

South

Houston	2	0	0	1.000	57	20
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	19	46
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	40	29
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	26	61

North

Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	48	33
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	49	41
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	44	46
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	31	35

West

Oakland	1	1	0	.500	58	58
San Diego	1	1	0	.500	45	52
Denver	1	1	0	.500	44	45
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	10	89

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	2	0	0	1.000	50	35
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	51	51
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	62	48
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	14	28

South

New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	64	55
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	44	47
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	47	61
Carolina	0	2	0	.000	44	58

North

Green Bay	2	0	0	1.000	72	57
Detroit	2	0	0	1.000	75	23
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	43	42
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	37	48

West

San Francisco	1	1	0	.500	57	44
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	49	43
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	13	31
Seattle	0	2	0	.000	17	57

COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLL

THE AP TOP 25

	Record	Pts	PV
1. Oklahoma (37)	2-0	1,471	1
2. LSU (14)	3-0	1,424	3
3. Alabama (7)	3-0	1,402	2
4. Boise St. (2)	2-0	1,309	4
5. Stanford	3-0	1,212	7
6. Wisconsin	3-0	1,170	8
7. Oklahoma St.	3-0	1,092	9
8. Texas A&M	2-0	1,043	11
9. Nebraska	3-0	911	12
10. Oregon	2-1	899	5
11. Florida St.	2-1	896	10
12. South Carolina	3-0	891	13
13. Virginia Tech	3-0	830	14
14. Arkansas	3-0	781	16
15. Florida	3-0	669	18
16. West Virginia	3-0	579	19
17. Baylor	3-0	521	20
18. South Florida	3-0	496	23
19. Texas	3-0	402	23
20. TCU	2-1	273	NR
21. Clemson	3-0	272	NR
22. Michigan	3-0	266	NR
23. Southern Cal	3-0	260	NR
24. Illinois	3-0	106	NR
25. Georgia Tech	3-0	59	NR

But Evan Longoria fielded the carom and threw to first for the out, Price stayed in the game and Tampa Bay beat the Red Sox 8-5 on Sunday to take three out of four from Boston and close within two games in the AL wild-card race.

The Red Sox have lost 11 of their last 14 and are now left rooting for the New York Yankees, who play the Rays seven times in Tampa Bay's last 10 games.

"To be able to do this against this team here, if that can't bolster your confidence nothing really can," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "Now it becomes more viable. You can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and now it's not attached to an oncoming train."

Tampa Bay already led 3-0 against a wild Tim Wakefield when Mike Aviles hit a hard shot up the middle and off the "Rays" logo below Price's right shoulder. The ball bounced toward third base for a 1-5-3 putout, and trainers went to the mound to look at Price.

After several minutes of examination - at one point Price sat on the ground and untucked his shirt so the medical staff could look at the bruise - Price retired Adrian Gonzalez an inning-ending groundout. Price gave up Darnell McDonald's two-run double in the fourth that made it 4-2.

ACC adds Pittsburgh, Syracuse

The Atlantic Coast Conference has extended its northern reach, adding Pittsburgh and Syracuse. Now the question becomes, will the league stop there - or keep growing to 16?

The ACC announced Sunday that its council of presidents unanimously voted to accept those two schools, a move that increases its membership to 14 and sends the Big East scrambling - again - to replace two of its cornerstone programs.

"We are constantly evaluating the competitive landscape to ensure the conference's viability for years to come, and this, I believe, has staying power," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said on a conference call.

"First of all, we are very comfortable with this 14," he added. "The only thing I would add to that is that we are not philosophically opposed to 16. But for now we are very pleased with this 14. We think it is just an excellent group."

The announcement caps a turbulent week of reshuffling for the ACC. It likely will lead to another dramatic shift in college athletics and could mark the next step toward the era of 16-team superconferences.

Injured Romo rallies Cowboys

SAN FRANCISCO - Tony Romo rallied America's Team while playing with a fractured rib. In a week when Romo vowed to play his best game, he delivered a gutsy comeback that looked unlikely when he briefly came out from halftime and then returned to the locker room.

Just when the Cowboys announced the quarterback was done for the day, there came No. 9 ready to take charge of the huddle once again.

Romo hit Jesse Holley on a 77-yard completion on the Cowboys' first play of overtime that set up Dan Bailey's winning 19-yard field goal, and Dallas pulled off an improbable 27-24 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

It was an exact reverse of what happened a week earlier: a 27-24 road loss to the Jets after Dallas blew a late 14-point lead. Romo's late interception contributed to that Week 1 collapse.

Bailey kicked a tying 48-yard field goal Sunday as time expired in regulation after missing an early 21-yard attempt.

Romo completed five of six passes on the tying drive, connecting on consecutive throws to Holley before finding him again in OT.

Brady stays hot in 35-21 win

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. - Big-yardage games are becoming routine for Tom Brady. So is setting records. Brady threw for 423 yards Sunday - six days after setting a single-game team record of 517 - and led the New England Patriots to a 35-21 win over the San Diego Chargers.

"It seems like he's always great," linebacker Rob Ninkovich said. "He's the best quarterback in the league."

The club record he shattered in the season opener at Miami had stood for 51 years. The NFL mark for most yards passing in the first two games of a season, 854, lasted about three hours. Carolina rookie Cam Newton set that before Brady ended the day at 940 yards. "Two pretty outstanding outings" by Brady, said left tackle Matt Light, who protects his blind side. "He's the leader of our offense. When he's doing well, we're all good."

Brady became the first player in NFL history to follow a 500-yard passing performance with a 400-yard game, and the Patriots scored 30 points for the 10th straight regular-season game. He threw three touchdown passes and went 31 for 40 with no interceptions as the Patriots (2-0) scored on each of their four first-half possessions.

Titans beat Ravens 26-13

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Tennessee Titans came out frustrated over how they opened the season and more than a bit desperate. They took it all out on the Baltimore Ravens, showing off a passing game with new quarterback Matt Hasselbeck that means Chris Johnson now has some help.

Hasselbeck threw for 358 yards and a touchdown, and the Titans gave new coach Mike Munchak a big win in their home opener by beating the Ravens 26-13 on Sunday.

Munchak called the victory a great recovery after a 16-14 loss at Jacksonville.

"We knew we couldn't be 0-2," Munchak said after getting a Gatorade bath in the final seconds and a game ball from owner Bud Adams in the locker room. "You can't start a season 0-2. We've been talking about winning at home since the first day I took the job."

With the Ravens focused on stopping Johnson, Hasselbeck attacked through the air. Kenny Britt caught nine passes for 135 yards and a TD, while Nate Washington had seven more receptions for 99 yards. Rob Bironas also kicked four field goals as Tennessee (1-1) held the ball for more than 35 minutes and outgained Baltimore 432-229 in total offense.

Johnson had 24 carries for 53 yards, and he couldn't be happier at how well his teammates performed.

Packers overcome Newton, Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - For the second straight week, Cam Newton threw for more than 400 yards, sidestepped pass rushers and moved the Carolina Panthers up and down the field.

Leave it to Aaron Rodgers and the Super Bowl champion Green Bay Packers to spoil Newton's home debut.

Rodgers threw for 308 yards and two scores, while the Packers withstood a 432-yard passing day from the No. 1 overall draft pick to beat the Panthers 30-23 on Sunday.

A week after throwing for 422 yards - the most in league history by a rookie in his professional debut - Newton topped himself by throwing for a franchise single-game record. He passed for one touchdown and also ran for a 4-yard score with 37 seconds left to bring Carolina (0-2) within seven, but the Packers (2-0) recovered the onside kick to seal the victory.

"I knew he would be good, but if I told you I knew he'd be this good this early, I'd be lying to you," said Packers nose tackle B.J. Raji, who had one of four sacks of Newton. "He doesn't get frustrated. We threw a lot of stuff at him today and he was able to sit back there and make some of the plays they needed."

Brees leads Saints past Bears

NEW ORLEANS - Drew Brees kept New Orleans' offense rolling, and Jay Cutler had little chance of keeping up against a Saints defense determined to regain an intimidating edge.

Brees threw for three touchdowns, New Orleans' defense beat up on Cutler with six sacks, and the Saints defeated the Chicago Bears 30-13 on Sunday.

Brees' scoring strikes included a 79-yarder to Devery Henderson. Darren Sproles scored on a 12-yard swing pass and Robert Meachem had a 4-yard TD reception as the Saints (1-1) bounced back from an opening week loss to Green Bay.

Facing heavy blitzing and without injured receiver Roy Williams, Cutler passed for 244 yards and a score, but completed only 42 percent of his passes and fumbled once.

Running back Matt Forte had 117 yards receiving to go with 49 yards rushing for Chicago (1-1), which lost guard Gabe Carimi and safety Major Wright to injuries after entering the game without several other injured starters.

The Saints' defense bounced back from a difficult outing at Green Bay, where they yielded five touchdowns and missed a slew of tackles in a 42-34 season-opening loss.

Verlander wins 12th straight

OAKLAND, Calif. - The AL Central title clinched for the Detroit Tigers, Justin Verlander has a goal - and it has nothing to do with the AL Cy Young Award.

The Tigers are looking for homefield advantage, for their fans as much as for themselves.

"I'd like to start at home," Verlander said Sunday when he led the Tigers over the Oakland Athletics 3-0 and became the first pitcher in nine years to reach 24 wins.

After clinching its first division title since 1987 on Friday, Detroit (89-64) is one game ahead of Texas (88-65) for No. 2 seed in the AL playoffs - and homefield advantage in the first round.

In the event of a tie, Tigers hold the tiebreaker because Detroit swept Texas 6-0 in the season series.

"I want the home crowd behind me," Verlander said. "I know it will be loud since they haven't seen it since 2006. It would be nice to play in front of them."

Verlander (24-5) won his 12th straight start, pitching three-hit ball over eight innings. He struck out six and walked three, extending his scoreless streak to 17 innings.

"The champagne bottles are packed and gone, and the cigars are gone," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "We have another mission and that's to get homefield advantage. If there's a fifth game, we want our fans to see it."

Rivera stays at 601

TORONTO - The New York Yankees are hoping home is where a division will be won and baseball history will be made.

Mariano Rivera was denied a chance to go for the career saves record Sunday when Adam Lind homered twice to back Brandon Morrow and lead the Toronto Blue Jays to a 3-0 victory.

New York went 4-6 on a trip that started with a makeup game at Baltimore and took the team to Anaheim and Seattle before wrapping up in Canada.

"It's been a tough road trip," manager Joe Girardi said. "This has been a really, really tough stretch. I know our guys are pretty worn down. Hopefully, they get to sleep in their own beds and catch up a little bit."

Alex Rodriguez, who played for the second straight day after missing six games because a sore left thumb, was happy to have the travel over for now.

"I feel like we'll be energized getting home, without a question," Rodriguez said. "It feels like we've been gone for about a month."

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	91	60	.603	-
Boston	87	65	.572	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	85	67	.559	6 1/2
Toronto	77	75	.507	14 1/2
Baltimore	62	89	.411	29

Central Division

x-Detroit	89	64	.582	-
Cleveland	75	75	.500	12 1/2
Chicago	74	78	.487	14 1/2
Kansas City	67	87	.435	22 1/2
Minnesota	59	92	.391	29

West Division

Texas	88	65	.575	-
Los Angeles	83	69	.546	4 1/2
Oakland	69	84	.451	19
Seattle	63	89	.414	24 1/2
x-Clinched division				

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Philadelphia	98	53	.649	-
Atlanta	87	66	.569	12
New York	73	80	.477	26
Washington	72	79	.477	26
Florida	69	84	.451	30

Central Division

Milwaukee	90	63	.588	-
St. Louis	83	69	.546	6 1/2
Cincinnati	74	79	.484	16
Pittsburgh	68	85	.444	22
Chicago	67	86	.438	23
Houston	52	100	.342	37 1/2

West Division

Arizona	88	65	.575	-
San Francisco	83	70	.542	5
Los Angeles	76	76	.500	11 1/2
Colorado	70	82	.461	17 1/2
San Diego	69	88	.425	23
x-Clinched division				

MLS STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	11	10	8	41	35	37
Sporting KC	10	9	10	40	43	37
Philadelphia	9	7	12	39	36	30
Houston	9	9	12	39	38	39
New York	7	6	15	36	43	38
D.C.	8	8	10	34	37	39
Chicago	6	12	12	30	32	52
Toronto FC	6	12	12	30	32	46
New England	5	12	12	27	32	46

WESTERN CONFERENCE

x-Los Angeles	16	3	10	58	43	22
Seattle	14	6	9	51	48	31
Real Salt Lake	14	7	9	48	38	32
FC Dallas	13	9	7	46	36	32
Colorado	10	9	11	41	40	39
Portland	10	12	6	36	36	41
Chivas USA	7	12	10	31	34	36
San Jose	6	11	11	29	30	37
Vancouver	4	14	10	22	28	46

Although they'll be back in the Bronx, the schedule doesn't get much easier - and doesn't include any off-days. The Yankees host Minnesota in an afternoon makeup game Monday, then play four against hard-charging Tampa Bay, including a day-night doubleheader Wednesday.

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"We've got to go home and play better, there's no doubt about it," Girardi said.

Bills rally to beat Raiders

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. - The Buffalo Bills will take the win any way they can get it.

After a wild back-and-forth fourth quarter, Ryan Fitzpatrick found David Nelson wide open on fourth down for a 6-yard touchdown pass with 14 seconds left to secure a 38-35 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday.

"I don't know what happened, but I think they misaligned to be honest," Fitzpatrick said, in noting how wide open Nelson was over the middle. "I was lucky enough to see it."

Chalk it up to luck, pluck and resilience, because the Bills are showing they're improved.

A week after a convincing 41-7 win at Kansas City, the Fitzpatrick-led offense had a 35-point second half in overcoming a 21-3 first-half deficit.

Buffalo scored touchdowns on each of its five second-half possessions as the teams traded the lead five times in the final 14:10.

Fitzpatrick went 28 of 46 for 264 yards and three touchdowns, while running back Fred Jackson scored twice in the Bills' home opener.

"I can't recall one quite like that," Bills coach Chan Gailey said. "It was an amazing gut-check by our football team. What they did coming out of halftime was really amazing."

The Raiders (1-1) saw the result from a different perspective in squandering a chance to open a season at 2-0 for the first time since 2002.

"Not a whole lot to say other than that effort isn't going to be good enough," defensive tackle Richard Seymour said. "We didn't seem to give the offense any help in the second half. That's on us. It isn't good enough."

Rose hangs on for victory

LEMONT, Ill. - Right when it looked as though Justin Rose might blow a big lead, he chipped in for birdie on the 17th hole to secure a two-shot victory Sunday in the BMW Championship that sends him to East Lake for a shot at \$10 million.

Rose closed with an even-par 71 in the rain at Cog Hill for his first win of the year, and it came at just the right time. He was not assured of making the FedEx Cup finale at the Tour Championship, and now is one of five players who only have to win at East Lake next week to collect golf's biggest bonus.

But it wasn't easy. Five shots ahead with 10 holes to play, Rose's lead was down to one after he drove into the trees on the par-5 15th and made bogey. From just short of the 17th green, however, the 31-year-old from England holed a chip from 35 feet for an unlikely birdie that sent him on his way.

Senden shot 70, and his runner-up finish moved him from No. 55 in the FedEx Cup to No. 9, putting him among the top 30 from the 70 players at Cog Hill to advance to the Tour Championship.

Thompson gets historic LPGA win

PRATTVILLE, Ala. - At 16, Lexi Thompson has become the youngest player to win an LPGA Tour event.

The Floridian closed with a 2-under 70 Sunday to win the Navistar LPGA Classic, beating Tiffany Joh by five strokes to finish at 17-under 271.

Thompson shattered the age record for winning a multiple-round tournament held by Paula Creamer, who won in 2005 at 18. Marlene Hagge was 18 years and 14 days old when she won the single-round Sarasota Open in 1952.

The victory brought a piece of history and \$195,000. "This has been my dream like my whole life," Thompson said. "It's the best feeling ever."

Thompson, who turned 16 in February, led by five strokes entering the final round and built that to seven through 10 holes at the Robert Trent Jones Trail's Capitol Hill complex. Then came the teen's only big lapse on the pressure-packed day, bogeys on the next two holes that allowed Joh to surge within three strokes.

Thompson erased any concerns of a collapse with birdies on Nos. 16 and 17, and then the celebration and the kind words began.

Spain to face Argentina in Davis Cup final

Novak Djokovic's ailing back didn't hold up Sunday, meaning Rafael Nadal won't have to face his main rival in the Davis Cup final.

NOW YOU KNOW!

LITERATURE: Ken Kesey wrote the novel 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'.

SPORTS: Brazil won soccer's World Cup in 1994.

GEOGRAPHY: Abuja is the capital of Nigeria.

OHIO ST OUT OF AP TOP 25

Ohio State is out of The Associated Press college football rankings for the first time in nearly seven years, ending the nation's longest streak of appearances in the Top 25.

Coming off a 24-6 beating at Miami, the Buckeyes dropped out of the rankings from No. 17 in the media poll released Sunday. Ohio State had been ranked in 103 straight Top 25s since last being left out on Nov. 20, 2004.

Oklahoma remained No. 1 after a 23-13 victory at Florida State. The loss dropped the Seminoles six spots to 11th. For the third consecutive week, LSU and Alabama flip-flopped at Nos. 2 and 3. The Tigers moved up to second after winning 19-6 at Mississippi State. The Crimson Tide slipped to third. Boise State stayed at No. 4 and Stanford moved up to fifth.

Djokovic tried to help Serbia stage a comeback in its semifinal against Argentina despite a lingering back problem, but had to retire when trailing 7-6 (5), 3-0 against Juan Martin del Potro. That sent Argentina into the final against Spain, which advanced after Nadal routed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 on clay in Cordoba.

"I feel disappointed to end this tie this way," Djokovic said. "My condition was 60 percent of what I had expected."

Argentina ended up winning 3-2 after Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic took the final meaningless match when Juan Monaco retired after losing the first set 6-2. Spain completed a 4-1 win after Fernando Verdasco beat Richard Gasquet in the final match.

Djokovic didn't play at all Friday, pulling out of the opening singles because his back had not recovered sufficiently from the injury he sustained during Monday's U.S. Open final victory over Nadal.

But with Serbia trailing 2-1 going into the final day, the top-ranked Serb decided to give it a try. Instead, he fell to the floor with back pains while trying to return a forehand during the final point of the third game in the second set.

Rain postpones NASCAR race

JOLIET, Ill. - Sunday's rain at Chicagoland Speedway forced NASCAR to postpone the opening race of the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. NASCAR rescheduled the race for Monday at noon Eastern.

The forecast didn't look good from the start, but because the facility has lights, NASCAR waited all day for a window to dry the track. Officials got the window and had the track almost dry, but the sky opened again roughly six hours after the scheduled start.

"We appreciate the fans hanging in there with us and we know that rain presents an issue that nobody has much control over and it's uncomfortable," NASCAR president Mike Helton said earlier Sunday. "But I think it's in everybody's best interest to try to get it in and we've got time to wait and see."

Time ran out about 8 p.m., with NASCAR releasing teams after the almost-dry track was soaked by a heavy rain. It marks the first Chase race since the championship series debuted in 2004 to be postponed.

The only Chase race that failed to be run to its conclusion was the 2007 event at Kansas, which was called for darkness after a rain delay halted action in the middle of the event. The race resumed, but ran only 210 of the scheduled 267 laps.

Matt Kenseth will start from the pole at Chicagoland when the race goes off on Monday, and he said he didn't think the full day of rain would present many problems for drivers.

Morneau done for season

MINNEAPOLIS - Minnesota's Justin Morneau is out for the season because of concussion symptoms and a cyst in his left knee that needs to be removed.

The first baseman will have surgery on the knee this week, the Twins announced Sunday. He also will have a bone spur removed from his left ankle.

The decision to shut down Morneau with 12 games remaining in the regular season means the 30-year-old slugger and former American League MVP will have played in only 69 games. Morneau, who missed two months of the season because of neck surgery, hit .227 with four homers and 30 RBIs. All are career lows.

"Our plan is to take care of the orthopedic problems that he has and hopefully get him healthy as soon as possible," said Minnesota athletic trainer Rick McWane.

Morneau wanted to keep playing.

"I didn't shut it down, they shut me down," he said after the Twins' 6-5 loss to Cleveland. "It's not by choice, so it's something that's not a whole lot of fun."

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Georgia executes Troy Davis

JACKSON, Ga. - Strapped to a gurney in Georgia's death chamber, Troy Davis lifted his head and declared one last time that he did not kill police officer Mark MacPhail. Just a few feet away behind a glass window, MacPhail's son and brother watched in silence.

Outside the prison, a crowd of more than 500 demonstrators cried, hugged, prayed and held candles. The small army represented hundreds of thousands of supporters worldwide who took up the anti-death penalty cause as Davis' final days ticked away.

"I am innocent," Davis said moments before he was executed Wednesday night. "All I can ask ... is that you look deeper into this case so that you really can finally see the truth. I ask my family and friends to continue to fight this fight."

Prosecutors and MacPhail's family said justice had finally been served.

"The kind of thing I can't believe that it's really happened," MacPhail's mother, Anneliese MacPhail, said in a telephone interview from her home in Columbus, Ga.

"All the feelings of relief and peace I've been waiting for all these years, they will come later. I certainly do want some peace."

She dismissed Davis' claims of innocence.

"He's been telling himself that for 22 years. You know how it is, he can talk himself into anything."

Davis was scheduled to die at 7 p.m., but the hour came and went as the U.S. Supreme Court apparently weighed the case. More than three hours later, the high court said it wouldn't intervene. The justices did not comment on their order rejecting Davis' request for a stay.

Hundreds of thousands of people signed petitions on Davis' behalf and he had prominent supporters. His attorneys said seven of nine key witnesses against him disputed all or parts of their testimony, but state and federal judges repeatedly ruled against him - three times on Wednesday alone.

Officer MacPhail's widow, Joan MacPhail-Harris, said it was "a time for healing for all families."

Obama: no shortcut to Mideast peace

UNITED NATIONS - President Barack Obama declared Wednesday that there could be no shortcut to peace between Israel and the Palestinians, as he sought to head off a looming diplomatic crisis for the Middle East and U.S. policy there.

"Peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the United Nations - if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now," the president told U.N. delegates. "Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians who must live side by side. Ultimately, it is the Israelis and the Palestinians - not us - who must reach agreement on the issues that divide them."

But in the speech before the U.N. General Assembly, Obama stopped short of directly calling on the Palestinians to drop their plan

to seek statehood recognition from the U.N. Security Council. U.S. officials were working furiously behind the scenes to persuade the Palestinians. With the limits of U.S. influence on the moribund peace process never more clear, Obama had no new demands for the Israelis, either, beyond saying that both sides deserved their own state and security.

"Peace depends upon compromise among peoples who must live together long after our speeches are over, and our votes have been counted," Obama said.

"That is the path to a Palestinian state." The push by the Palestinians threatens to isolate Israel even further, and divide the U.S. from allies in the Arab world who support the statehood resolution.

WORLD NEWS

CHINA CONDEMNS ARMS DEAL

BEIJING - China on Thursday strongly condemned a \$5.85 billion U.S. deal to upgrade Taiwan's fleet of F-16 fighter jets, summoning the U.S. ambassador and warning the move would undermine warming military relations.

China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory, urged the United States to cancel the deal and said it had jeopardized recent improvements in military ties between the two world powers and affected relations with Taiwan.

But analysts said the deal, which stopped short of selling new planes to Taiwan, would probably not be as damaging as an earlier arms package that led to a break in China-U.S. military exchanges in 2010.

TYPHOON BATTERS JAPAN

TOKYO - A powerful typhoon that barreled through Japan and threatened the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant killed at least 10 people including a woman aged 101, according to officials and reports.

Typhoon Roke, which churned across the main island of Honshu and through the already disaster-ravaged northeast, caused flooding and triggered landslides in an echo of a vicious storm earlier in the month that killed around 100 people.

But it did not cause any further damage to the battered nuclear power plant, as had been feared, its operators said, after workers had scrambled to secure the facility to prevent more radiation from seeping out.

ASSANGE AUTOBIOGRAPHY 'TO HIT SHELVES DESPITE ROW'

LONDON - The autobiography of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was to go on sale Thursday despite efforts by the Australian anti-secrecy campaigner to suppress the book, its British publisher said.

The book - "Julian Assange: The Unauthorised Autobiography" - reportedly includes his first direct comments on allegations of rape in Sweden that led to the former computer hacker fighting an extradition battle in Britain.

Publisher Canongate said Wednesday it was the first draft of Assange's autobiography as delivered to them in March 2011, and that they were going ahead with publication despite Assange's attempts to prevent them.

WEATHER

INTERNATIONAL WEATHER

	Lo	Hi	
Amsterdam	57	64	Rain
Athens	66	80	Rain
Auckland	53	62	Pcldy
Berlin	48	68	Pcldy
Brussels	55	66	Clear
Buenos Aires	60	71	Clear
Cairo	71	93	Clear
Copenhagen	57	62	Pcldy
Dublin	48	57	Rain
Hong Kong	78	89	Clear
Istanbul	68	80	Pcldy
Jerusalem	78	89	Clear
Johannesburg	44	75	Clear
London	59	62	Cloudy
Madrid	55	84	Clear
Manila	77	89	Rain
Mexico City	53	75	Pcldy
Moscow	53	59	Rain
New Delhi	68	91	Clear
Paris	53	69	Clear
Rome	68	77	Clear
Sao Paulo	78	84	Pcldy
Singapore	78	84	Pcldy
Stockholm	55	57	Rain
Sydney	51	73	Clear
Tokyo	77	87	Rain
Toronto	59	71	Rain
Zurich	41	66	Clear

U.S. WEATHER

	Hi	Lo	Outlook
Anchorage	52	44	Cloudy
Atlanta	86	69	Rain
Boston	75	59	Rain
Chicago	71	60	Cloudy
Dallas/Ft Worth	70	58	Cloudy
Denver	76	38	Clear
Great Falls	76	38	Clear
Houston	94	66	Pcldy
Kansas City	73	52	Clear
Las Vegas	100	74	Clear
Los Angeles	78	62	Pcldy
Miami Beach	90	82	Rain
Mpls/St Paul	59	53	Cloudy
New Orleans	89	72	Rain
New York City	78	62	Rain
Phoenix	107	79	Clear
Salt Lake City	81	57	Clear
San Francisco	78	54	Pcldy
Seattle	76	59	Cloudy
Washington, D.C.	76	64	Rain
National Temperature Extremes:			
High Wednesday 107 at El Centro Nas, Calif. and Phoenix, Ariz.			
Low Wednesday 18 at Shirley Basin, Wyo.			

Experts: Pilot likely unconscious in Reno crash

RENO, Nev. - The veteran aviator whose plane slammed into a crowd of Nevada air race spectators at 400 mph had no chance to save his ill-fated flight after likely losing consciousness from acceleration more abrupt and extreme than even what most fighter pilots endure, flying experts said.

Jimmy Leeward's aircraft shot skyward like a rocket Friday before plunging into spectators at what appeared to be full throttle. Federal investigators continue to look for a cause of the crash at the National Championship Air Races that killed 11 people, including Leeward, and injured dozens, but have yet to come to a conclusion, something that could take months.

They're focused on a range of possibilities, including Leeward's health and the structural soundness of the plane after a piece of the tail called the "elevator trim tab" that helps control the aircraft's pitch appeared to break off before the crash.

Americans freed from Iran prison head home

MUSCAT, Oman - After more than two years in Iranian custody, two Americans convicted as spies took their first steps toward home Wednesday as they bounded down from a private jet and into the arms of family for a joyful reunion in the Gulf state of Oman.

The families called this "the best day of our lives," and President Barack Obama said their release - under a \$1 million bail-for-freedom deal - "wonderful news."

The release capped complicated diplomatic maneuvers over a week of confusing signals by Iran's leadership on the fate of Josh Fattal and Shane Bauer.

Although the fate of the two gripped America, it was on the periphery of the larger showdowns between Washington and Tehran that include Iran's nuclear program and its ambitions to widen military and political influence in the Middle East and beyond. But

- for a moment at least - U.S. officials may be adding words of thanks in addition to their calls for alarm over Iran.

For Tehran, it was a chance to court some goodwill after sending a message of defiance with hard-line justice in the July 2009 arrests of the Americans along the Iran-Iraq border. The Americans always maintained they were innocent hikers.

"Today can only be described as the best day of our lives," said a statement from their families. "We have waited for nearly 26 months for this moment and the joy and relief we feel at Shane and Josh's long-awaited freedom knows no bounds."

"We now all want nothing more than to wrap Shane and Josh in our arms, catch up on two lost years and make a new beginning, for them and for all of us," the statement added.

House kills spending bill with disaster aid

WASHINGTON - In a rebuke to GOP leaders, the House on Wednesday rejected a measure providing \$3.7 billion for disaster relief as part of a bill to keep the government running through mid-November.

The surprise 230-195 defeat came at the hands of Democrats and tea party Republicans.

Democrats were opposed because the measure contains \$1.5 billion in cuts to a government loan program to help car companies build fuel-efficient vehicles. For

their part, many GOP conservatives felt the underlying bill permits spending at too high a rate.

The outcome sends House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and his leadership team back to the drawing board as they seek to make sure the government doesn't shut down at the end of next week. It also raises the possibility that the government's main disaster relief program could run out of money early next week for victims of Hurricane Irene and other disasters.

ATF: Car bomb behind Mich. blast

MONROE, Mich. - A car bomb caused a powerful explosion on a Michigan street that seriously injured a father and his two sons, who are "very fortunate" to have survived the attack, which turned their vehicle into a blackened hunk of metal, a federal official said Wednesday.

Investigators were poring over what remained of the vehicle after the Tuesday evening blast, looking for clues about how the bomb was made and who might have planted it, said Donald Dawkins, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"There was a lot of power behind it. The victims are very fortunate, very blessed, to be alive," Dawkins said.

Among the things investigators are trying to determine is whether one of the victims was targeted or whether the attack was random, Dawkins said. The vehicle exploded on a tree-lined street under a highway in Monroe, which is about 35 miles southwest of Detroit.

Authorities declined to publicly identify the victims, but said they were in serious condition at St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio, about 20 miles south of Monroe.

The victims were lucky to survive, said Dawkins, who described the attack as a "heinous crime."

"When you have children involved, it really hits home," he said.

Two officers charged in death of homeless man

SANTA ANA, Calif. - The fatal police beating of a mentally ill, homeless man, prosecutors say, began with one officer snapping on a pair of latex gloves and a single threat.

Kelly Thomas was sitting on a curb in Southern California as police checked his backpack when Officer Manuel Ramos donned the gloves and made two fists in front of him. Prosecutors say Ramos then said: "Now see my fists? They are getting ready to F you up."

"This declaration was a turning point - a defining moment," Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said, as he announced Wednesday that Ramos and another officer have been charged in Thomas' death.

Officer Manuel Ramos, a 10-year veteran,

was charged with second-degree murder and involuntary manslaughter. His lawyer disputed Rackauckas' account, saying Thomas violently resisted arrest. Cpl. Jay Cicinelli, a 12-year veteran, faces involuntary manslaughter and excessive force charges. He pleaded not guilty.

In the 10-minute long beating, Fullerton police officers pinned Thomas to the ground so hard that he had trouble breathing. Prosecutors say he was shocked four times with a Taser, kned in the head, punched in the ribs and bashed eight times with the butt of a stun gun.

Thomas screamed for his father, begged for help and cried out that he couldn't breathe. Then he lost consciousness. That, prosecutors say, should have alerted officers that Thomas was seriously injured.

Satellite still on for Friday freefall

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. - A dead 6-ton satellite is getting closer and closer, and is expected to smack down on Earth on Friday.

NASA's old research satellite is expected to come crashing down through the atmosphere Friday afternoon, Eastern Time. The spacecraft will not be passing over North America then, the space agency said in a statement Wednesday evening.

The predictions should become more precise by Thursday afternoon and certainly by Friday.

"It is still too early to predict the time and location of re-entry with any more certainty,"

NASA said.

An estimated 26 pieces - representing 1,200 pounds - are expected to survive.

NASA is anticipating a splashdown rather than a landing. Nearly three-quarters of the world is covered with water. The Aerospace Corporation in California, in fact, predicts that re-entry will occur over the Pacific late Friday afternoon, Eastern Time. But that's give or take 14 hours.

The 20-year-old Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite will be the biggest NASA spacecraft to fall uncontrolled from the sky in 32 years.

Bill Gates tops Forbes list

LOS ANGELES - The nation's economic woes don't appear to be hurting Bill Gates, who tops Forbes' list of the 400 richest Americans for the 18th year in a row.

The magazine said Wednesday that the Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist's wealth amounts to \$59 billion, ranking him ahead of all the other billionaires who make up this year's list.

Gates' fortune swelled by \$5 billion from a year ago, outpacing the No. 2 on the list, Warren Buffett, whose net worth is \$39 billion, Forbes said.

Buffett, who wrote in a recent piece for The New York Times that the tax rate he paid last

year was lower than that paid by any of the other 20 people in his office, was the only person among the top 20 on Forbes' list to see his fortune shrink from a year ago.

The Berkshire Hathaway Inc. chairman and CEO's fortune decreased by \$6 billion - the largest dollar-amount loss by anyone on the Forbes 400 this year, the magazine said.

Oracle CEO Larry Ellison rounds out the top three richest Americans with a net worth of \$33 billion, \$6 billion more than last year.

Financier George Soros took seventh place, his first time among the top 10. Forbes estimates his wealth at \$22 billion.

CELEBRITY NEWS

'NEW GIRL' SOARS

Fox had a classic good news-bad news scenario in Tuesday night's television ratings.

First, the good: Actress Zooey Deschanel's new sitcom, "New Girl," had a strong series debut. The Nielsen Co. said Wednesday that "New Girl" was watched by just over 10.1 million people. It was the most popular show of the night among young viewers.

The sampling on television came despite Fox offering a stream of the first episode on iTunes for the past two weeks. The popular indie film actress Deschanel plays a schoolteacher who moves into an apartment with three single guys after she catches her boyfriend cheating.

JAZZ PRODUCER, HISTORIAN FRANK DRIGGS DIES AT 81

Frank Driggs, a music historian and producer who amassed a world-class archive of more than 100,000 jazz-related images, has died. He was 81.

Friend and co-worker Donna Ranieri told The Associated Press that Driggs was found dead in his Manhattan home on Tuesday. She says he died of natural causes.

A 1952 Princeton University graduate, Driggs became enamored with jazz and swing while listening to late-night broadcasts in the 1930s. He later joined Marshall Stearns, founder of the Rutgers University-based Institute of Jazz Studies, and began documenting jazz history.

PARAMOUNT PLANS \$700M REVAMP OF HOLLYWOOD LOT

Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures movie studio plans to apply to the city of Los Angeles this week for approval of a 25-year, \$700 million plan to refurbish the lot in Hollywood it has occupied since 1926.

The approval process could take about two years.

"For nearly 100 years, Paramount Pictures has made movies that are loved around the world," CEO Brad Grey said in a statement. "To continue to do that successfully, it is critical that we give our talent and staff the tools and technology they need to remain innovative in our approach to filmmaking."

R.E.M. calling it quits

NEW YORK - R.I.P. to R.E.M. The alternative rock group that shook up the music world with its experimental, edgy sound and then earned multiplatinum success and a place in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame announced on its website Wednesday that it has "decided to call it a day as a band."

"A wise man once said - 'the skill in attending a party is knowing when it's time to leave.' We built something extraordinary together. We did this thing. And now we're going to walk away from it," frontman Michael Stipe said in a statement on the website.

"I hope our fans realize this wasn't an easy decision; but all things must end, and we wanted to do it right, to do it our way."

The Grammy-winning group, now composed of Stipe, guitarist Peter Buck and bassist Mike Mills, released its debut album "Murmur" in 1983; at the time it was a quartet, with drummer Bill Berry. He left the group in 1997, two years after he suffered

symptoms of an aneurysm onstage.

The group got its start in Athens, Ga., coming out of the region's flourishing indie-rock scene. The band was credited for helping launch college radio with songs such as "Radio Free Europe."

Later, the mainstream caught on, and R.E.M. became chart-topping rockers, selling millions of albums with hits like "It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine)," "Losing My Religion" and "Everybody Hurts."

Stipe, the band's chief songwriter, crafted songs that were atypical of the standard rock fare. "Man on the Moon" was about the late comic Andy Kaufman. "Losing My Religion" was not about religion at all, but about trying to relay the feelings of a crush.

The band's videos also became staples on MTV in the 1990s, including the eye-catching "Losing My Religion" and the stark "Everybody Hurts," which had Stipe walking through a highway traffic jam.

Forecasts point to modest holiday growth

NEW YORK - Retailers just got an early Christmas gift: Americans are expected to spend more than they did last year during the holidays.

Retail revenue in November and December is expected to be up 3 percent during what is traditionally the biggest shopping period of the year, according to research firm ShopperTrak said Tuesday.

The sales prediction, which matches the outlook from the International Council of

Shopping Centers on Friday, would be below last year's 4.1 percent spike - and the 5-plus percent gains during boom economic times. But it's still above the 2.6 percent average gain over the last 10 years and is considered respectable growth given the down economy.

"Clearly, consumers will remain surgical in their spending," said Bill Martin, ShopperTrak, co-founder. "But the Christmas season should still be quite satisfactory."

Stars launch Boys & Girls Club's PSA

ATLANTA - Denzel Washington still applies the same principles in his acting career that he learned when he was a third grader in the Boys & Girls Club of America.

Now, the Oscar-winning actor along with director Ron Howard want to show how the club has impacted his life along with 20 other celebrities and entertainers, who were once members of the club.

Washington, the club's national spokesman, took part Wednesday in the debut of the club's campaign public service announcement

called "Great Future Start Here." The PSA, which was directed by Howard, looks to draw awareness to the high school dropout rate, childhood obesity and youth violence.

"I want to be part of a solution," Washington said in a telephone interview from Washington, D.C., after the launch of the announcement. "I want to take the positive approach in regards to these kids. They inspire me. We can't focus on the problem. We have to focus on the solution."

DID YOU KNOW?

MUSIC: On which LP cover do the words "Welcome the Rolling Stones" appear?

FILM: Who or what is the Pink Panther in the film of the same name?

HISTORY: What was the name of the blind Benedictine monk who allegedly invented champagne?

(Answers on Page 8)

Beatles integrated audience pact sells for \$23,000

SANTA MONICA, Calif. - A contract for a 1965 Beatles concert that states the group will not perform before a segregated audience has sold for more than \$23,000.

The Nate D. Sanders auction house of Santa Monica says the contract was auctioned in online bidding that closed Tuesday. The buyer's name was not disclosed.

Sanders had expected the contract to fetch \$3,000 to \$5,000. The document lays out the terms for the Beatles' 1965 appearance at San Francisco's Cow Palace. Among other things, it demands that 150 police officers be brought in to provide security.

The year before, the Beatles threatened to cancel a concert at Florida's Gator Bowl after the band learned the audience was to be segregated. Band members agreed to perform only after officials assured them the crowd would be integrated.

AMPAS puts new limits on pre-Oscar campaigning

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. - Oscar is clamping down on awards campaigning.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced new regulations Wednesday to curtail campaigning for the 84th annual Academy Awards. The new rules eliminate star-studded receptions for films and individual nominees after the Oscar nominations have been announced on Jan. 24, 2012.

There are no restrictions on screenings, receptions or filmmaker panel discussions prior to the nominations announcement, but once the nominees are known, receptions will not be allowed and no individual from any film can participate in more than two panel discussions.

Academy members and Oscar nominees are also prohibited from attending any non-screening events that promote or honor a nominated film or individual after the nominations announcement, but they'll still be allowed to attend academy-sanctioned events and those held by various guilds and critics groups.

SPORTS NEWS

Posada's 2-run single gives Yankees AL East crown

NEW YORK - Jorge Posada came off the bench and helped the Yankees to yet another first-place finish with a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and New York swept the Tampa Bay Rays by identical 4-2 scores in a day-night doubleheader Wednesday to win the AL East.

Accomplishing most of their regular-season goals with a week to spare, the Yankees earned their 16th playoff berth in 17 seasons by winning the day game behind Robinson Cano's tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth.

They didn't bother celebrating after that one - Yankees blase at its best - but vowed to let loose when they ensured the division crown. They made good on that promise, donning goggles and spraying the bubbly in the clubhouse.

For the Rays, it was a damaging day as they missed a chance to move up on Boston in the AL wild-card race. The Red Sox lost to Baltimore 6-4, but still extended their lead over Tampa Bay to 2½ games. The Los Angeles Angels also are 2½ games behind.

The Yankees' clincher fell into place after a 62-minute rain delay. A month past his 40th birthday and his role reduced, Posada pinch-hit with the bases loaded and two outs with the score 2-all. He hit a hard, two-run single to right off Brandon Gomes and pumped a fist as he ran up the first-base line.

Freese drives in five in Cardinals' win

ST. LOUIS - David Freese and the St. Louis Cardinals are really enjoying the final stretch. Freese drove in five runs with a go-ahead three-run homer and a triple, and the surging St. Louis Cardinals beat the New York Mets 6-5 Wednesday night for their 12th win in 14 games.

With the win, the Cardinals moved within 1½ games of Atlanta in the National League wild-card race. St. Louis, a season-high 17 over .500 (86-69), has seven games left and will go for a sweep of the Mets on Thursday. "The real fun in this game is to play meaningful games this time of year and you have the most fun playing in October," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "The guys are having a lot of fun because we played ourselves back into this. You can feel it."

WEDNESDAY'S SCOREBOARD

MLB: AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 2 (1st game)
N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 2 (2nd game)
Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 4
L.A. Angels 7, Toronto 2
Baltimore 6, Boston 4
Detroit 6, Kansas City 3
Seattle 5, Minnesota 4
Texas 3, Oakland 2

MLB: NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 2, Houston 0
Chicago Cubs 7, Milwaukee 1
San Diego 4, Colorado 0
Arizona 8, Pittsburgh 5
Washington 7, Philadelphia 5
Florida 4, Atlanta 0
St. Louis 6, N.Y. Mets 5
San Francisco 8, L.A. Dodgers 5

MLS

Chivas USA 2, D.C. United 2
Real Salt Lake 3, New York 1
San Jose 1, Portland 1

NHL PRESEASON

Phoenix (ss) 2, Los Angeles (ss) 1, so
Toronto 4, Philadelphia 2
Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT
Pittsburgh 3, Detroit 2
St. Louis 4, Tampa Bay 3
New Jersey 2, N.Y. Rangers 1, OT
Buffalo 3, Montreal 1
Ottawa 2, Boston 1, OT
San Jose 6, Anaheim 1
Los Angeles (ss) 3, Phoenix (ss) 2

Freese certainly enjoyed watching his homer, which gave the Cardinals a 6-4 advantage in the seventh.

"That was a good feeling," Freese said. "Obviously, the biggest hit of my career and getting that win is huge."

The Mets fell to 73-82, ensuring the third straight losing season for the big-spending ballclub that has been plagued by injuries and off-field financial woes this year.

Jaime Garcia (13-7), making his 30th start, pitched around four unearned runs in 7 2-3 innings. He gave up six hits and struck out five.

Red Sox lose late lead, Orioles rally for 6-4 win

BOSTON - Boos poured down on the struggling Red Sox as they left the field after their latest loss. In the clubhouse, it was quiet as they packed for their final road trip - and perhaps their last games - of the year.

The Red Sox road to the playoffs hit more rough spots when they blew another late lead, falling to the Baltimore Orioles 6-4 on Wednesday night, their 14th loss in 18 games.

Boston's lead in the AL wild-card race increased by a half game to 2½ when the Tampa Bay Rays lost a doubleheader to the New York Yankees. But the Red Sox seemed stunned by their collapse, with blank looks on their faces and little expression in their voices.

"We certainly haven't made it very easy for ourselves," manager Terry Francona said. "That doesn't mean we can't get where we want to go, but we have our work cut out for us."

Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run single in the eighth inning that broke a 4-all tie. Then the Red Sox went meekly in the last two innings, failing to get a hit and ending on Jed Lowrie's soft grounder to pitcher Jim Johnson.

The Red Sox led Tampa Bay by nine games on Sept. 3. Now they also must hold off the Los Angeles Angels, who also are 2½ games out in the AL wild-card race after beating Toronto 7-2 on Wednesday.

Blue Jays lose Lawrie to injury, fall to Angels

TORONTO - The Toronto Blue Jays suffered a big loss before Wednesday night's game even started.

Dan Haren pitched eight innings, Peter Bourjos and Vernon Wells homered, and Los Angeles beat the Toronto Blue Jays 7-2 on Wednesday night, closing within 2½ games of Boston in the AL wild-card race.

That was secondary to the Blue Jays, who saw rookie third baseman Brett Lawrie fracture the middle finger on his right hand when he was struck by a ball during batting practice, putting a premature end to his promising season.

Lawrie was fielding grounders when a bad hop struck him on the finger. He left the field shaking his hand in pain and headed to the clubhouse.

"The ball bounced up off the turf a little bit quicker than the normal rhythm of the ground balls," Blue Jays manager John Farrell said. "It basically jumped into the glove where his throwing hand was there to make the transfer. It hit the end of the middle finger."

Lawrie broke his left hand on May 31 when he was hit by a pitch while playing with Triple-A Las Vegas.

Kinsler, Hamilton power Rangers past A's

OAKLAND, Calif. - Ian Kinsler hit a tying home run leading off the eighth and Josh Hamilton followed with another homer two batters later, lifting Texas to a 3-2 win over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday night and reducing the Rangers magic number to clinch the AL West to three.

Michael Young, Adrian Beltre and Mike Napoli added two hits apiece for Texas, which won its 90th game to match its win total of 2010.

The Rangers maintained their five-game leading over the Angels in the West with seven to go. They can clinch their second straight division title as early as Friday in Arlington when they host Seattle in the beginning of a three-game series.

Texas squandered numerous scoring opportunities and trailed 2-1 going in to the eighth before Kinsler and Hamilton powered the Rangers back.

Kinsler snapped the drought with his 30th home run of the season on a full-count pitch leading off the eighth against A's reliever Grant Balfour (4-2). Kinsler became the first second baseman in American League history to have 30 home runs, 30 doubles, 100 runs scored and 80 walks in the same season.

Balfour retired Elvis Andrus on flyball before Hamilton connected for his 24th home run to right field. The ball landed halfway up the stairs at the Oakland Coliseum then bounced the rest of the way up.

Texas prez says Big 12 money deals can be redone

AUSTIN, Texas - Texas officials said Wednesday they are open to a new revenue-sharing model in the Big 12 and have already suggested that top-level television and cable money be shared equally.

But Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds says Texas doesn't want to share the money from its Longhorn Network, a 20-year, \$300 million deal with ESPN.

"That's never been in play, that's not in play," Dodds said.

He said Big 12 athletic directors more than a month ago approved Texas' suggestion to equally share to network revenue around the league, which is the practice in other leagues. The plan has not been voted on by league presidents, Dodds said.

"Those were Texas proposals," Dodds said. Texas President William Powers said creating stability is the top priority for the Big 12. And a day after the Pac-12 said it had no plans to add any Big 12 members, Powers said one way to build stability is to restructure media contracts.

"There are methods of doing that, including the way media deals are structured and we'll be working with our partners in the Big 12 and our media partners to structure something that has stability," Powers told reporters at the state Capitol.

NFL memo warns teams on faking injuries

NEW YORK - To the fake handoff and fake field goals, add fake injuries.

The NFL sent a memo Wednesday to all 32 teams warning of fines, suspensions and loss of draft picks if the league determines players faked injuries during a game. Yet several players admit its an accepted practice, and some coaches hinted they are not above condoning phony injuries if it provides a competitive edge.

"I've been places where it has been (taught)," said Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, a member of the players' union executive committee. "They have a name for it and I've been places where it's been pre-called. I've been places where it's one player who has been designated. Maybe I'm getting everyone in trouble, but I'm just being honest."

In the memo obtained by The Associated Press, the NFL reminded teams of league policy that calls on coaches to discourage the practice. There is no specific rule on the topic.

Nonetheless, two days after there was speculation the Giants' Deon Grant faked an injury against the Rams during Monday night's game, the NFL is warning of disciplinary action.

UConn remains uncommitted to Big East

STORRS, Conn. - Multiple officials at Connecticut say the school has not committed to staying in the Big East Conference and continues to look at other conference options.

The officials, who asked that their names not be used because of the sensitive nature of the negotiations, denied that Connecticut and Rutgers agreed to stay in the conference during a three-hour meeting among Big East football members on Tuesday.

Commissioner John Marianatto emerged from that meeting to say that all the members had "pledged to each other that they are committed to move forward together."

But the Connecticut officials said that when Marianatto asked each school in turn to commit to the conference, officials from Connecticut and Rutgers agreed to continue talks, but both indicated they would ultimately do what was in best interests of their own schools.

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Connecticut President Susan Herbst issued a statement Wednesday thanking fans for their patience during what she described as a "period of instability" in college athletics.

"Please know that we will always do what is in the best interests for the University of Connecticut," she said. "We remain committed to our ideals and principals in intercollegiate athletics and will continue to achieve excellence academically and athletically."

Small NBA meeting held, leadership talks Thursday

NEW YORK - Staff members from the NBA and players' association have met, and top negotiators from both sides will talk Thursday.

A small group from each side took part over a few hours Wednesday. On Thursday, Commissioner David Stern, Deputy Commissioner Adam Silver and other top negotiators from the league will meet with executive director Billy Hunter, president Derek Fisher of the Lakers, who was flying overnight to New York, and others from the union.

Players and owners are still clashing over the salary cap structure as the lockout that began July 1 reaches an important stage. Training camps expected to open Oct. 3 would likely be postponed without a deal this week.

Wieber leads US team for world championships

Experience was not a requirement for the U.S. world gymnastics team.

2008 Olympian Alicia Sacramone is one of only two gymnasts on the seven-person team named Wednesday night who has been to a world championships.

Aly Raisman, a member of last year's team that won the silver medal at worlds; U.S. champion Jordyn Wieber; McKayla Maroney; Anna Li; Gabrielle Douglas; and Sabrina Vega also were named to the team after a second selection camp at the Karolyi ranch outside of Houston.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Fed to shift \$400B in holdings to boost economy

WASHINGTON - The Federal Reserve said Wednesday it will shuffle \$400 billion of its portfolio to try to drive down long-term interest rates and get the economy going. But economists doubted it would do much good, the stock market sold off, and the Fed itself was unusually divided over the strategy.

The idea is to make mortgages and other major loans cheaper and encourage people and businesses to spend more money - providing a lift to the broader economy, which has slowed sharply more than two years after the Great Recession.

But economists pointed out that Americans, still feeling insecure about the future and inclined to save rather than borrow, might not be willing to take on more debt, even at lower rates, or eligible to get it. Others see no reason to jump into the housing market when prices are still falling.

"Frankly, I don't see it having any meaningful impact on the economy," said Bernard Baumohl, chief global economist with the Economic Outlook Group. "What the Fed did today was a distraction."

Yields on U.S. government debt were already among the lowest on record, and investors drove them down further after the Fed announcement. The yield on the 10-year Treasury bond, an indicator for mortgages and other long-term loans, closed at 1.86 percent, down from 1.93 percent the day before and the lowest since at least 1962.

Along with the strategy statement, the Fed gave a stormy overview of the economy - slow growth, high unemployment and a slumping housing market. The Fed has already said it will keep short-term interest rates super-low into 2013, a sign that the central bank was not optimistic about the next two years.

Stocks plunge after Fed announces stimulus steps

NEW YORK - The Federal Reserve did what investors expected Wednesday - it said it would buy Treasury bonds to help the economy. But stocks fell anyway. The reason? The Fed made it clear that it thinks a full economic recovery is years away.

MARKET DATA

WALL STREET INDEXES

Wednesday close

Dow Jones Industrials	11124.84	-283.82
S&P 500	1166.76	-35.33
NYSE Composite	6981.33	-236.19
Amex Index	2160.96	-57.95
NASD Composite	2538.19	-52.05
NMS Composite	1183.97	-24.15
Value Line Geometric	308.86	-11.22
Value Line Arithmetic	2469.90	-88.96
DJ US Total Stock Mkt	12174.01	-377.15
Russell 2000 Index	664.58	-25.37

60 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

Prices as of	Wed Sep 21	17:38:01
AT&T Inc	NY	28.30 -1.55
Alcoa	NY	20.84 -1.41
Amgen	NY	17.61 -1.51
Apple Inc	NA	412.14 -1.31
ApldMatl	NA	10.85 -1.28
BkofAm	NY	6.38 -1.52
Bar iPvix rs	NY	45.21 +2.33
CSX S	NY	18.59 -1.64
CheniereEn	AM	6.44 -1.50
Cisco	NA	15.84 -1.69
Citigrp rs	NY	25.52 -1.41
Comcast	NA	21.86 -1.86
Dell Inc	NA	14.69 -1.19
DrscBr rs	NY	49.85 +5.00
DrxFnBull	NY	11.50 -1.52
DirxBull	NY	36.89 -4.61
eBay	NA	32.24 -1.45
FordM	NY	9.97 -1.45
FMCS	NY	35.59 -2.96
FrontierCm	NY	6.37 -1.41
GenElec	NY	15.38 -1.66
GloblInd	NA	7.86 +0.01
GoldStr g	AM	2.18 -1.10
HallibrtN	NY	35.09 -2.89
HewlettP	NY	23.98 +1.51
ishChina25	NY	33.67 -1.55
ishMkts	NY	48.72 -1.48
IS Eafe	NY	48.72 -1.48
ishR2K	NY	66.59 -2.56
Intel	NA	21.94 -1.26
JPMorgch	NY	30.34 -1.91
MicronT	NA	6.61 -1.25
Microsoft	NA	25.99 -1.99
MorganStan	NY	13.82 -1.30
Netlity	AM	12.50 -1.53
NWGold g	AM	13.51 -1.70
NewsCPA	NA	16.13 -1.70
NokiaCP	NY	5.57 -1.32
NthnOG	AM	21.67 +1.48
NthgtM g	AM	3.71 -1.17
Nvidia	NA	14.47 -1.29
Oracle	NA	29.54 +1.19
Pfizer	NY	17.84 -1.40
PWSHs QQQ	NA	25.38 -1.98
PRUSHs	NY	24.26 +1.40
PROUTSP	NY	40.34 -2.66
RF MidC	NY	7.15 +1.15
RschMotn	NA	21.54 -1.19
S&P500ETF	NY	116.63 -3.54
SiriusXM	NA	1.81 +0.03
SprintNex	NY	3.25 -1.08
SP Matls	NY	32.09 -1.52
SP Engy	NY	62.89 -2.73
SPDR FncI	NY	11.90 -1.62
SP Inds	NY	30.14 -1.43
Vale SA	NY	25.32 -1.43
VangEmg	NY	38.68 -1.53
Wells Fargo	NY	23.71 -1.96
YRC rsh	NA	1.07 -1.00
Yahoo	NA	13.96 -1.40

(NY=NYSE; AM=AMEX; NA=NASDAQ)

FOREIGN STOCK INDEXES

	wednesday	Previous
Amsterdam AEX	275.68	279.54
Brussels Bel-25	2115.87	2132.73
Frankfurt DAX	5433.80	5571.68
Hong Kong H-S	1824.17	19014.80
London FT-100	5288.41	5363.71
Mexico IPC	34021.39	34337.97
Milan MIB	14119.76	14356.13
Paris CAC-40	2935.82	2984.05
Sydney All Ord	4153.60	4124.80
Tokyo Nikkei	8741.16	8721.24
Toronto TSE-300	11955.01	12209.88
Zurich SMI	5475.34	5471.40

NEW YORK EXCHANGE RATES

	wed	Tue
Australia (Dollar)	.9877	.9730
Britain (Pound)	\$1.5578	\$1.5732
Canada (Dollar)	1.0035	.9912
China (Yuan)	6.3844	6.3851
Euro	\$1.3667	\$1.3688
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.9008	7.9008
India (Rupee)	48.350	48.015
Japan (Yen)	76.62	76.38
Mexico (Peso)	13.4140	13.1670
Norway (Krone)	5.6955	5.6382
Russia (Ruble)	31.4485	31.3945
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2797	1.2603
So. Africa (Rand)	8.0157	7.7160
Switzerland (Franc)	.8954	.8889

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 283.82 points, or 2.5 percent, and closed at 11,124.84. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 35.33, or 2.9 percent, to 1,166.76. The Nasdaq composite fell 52.05, or 2 percent, to 2,538.19.

Investors bought Treasuries because of concerns about the weak economy. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to a record low of 1.86 percent from late Tuesday's 1.93 percent.

And the price of oil continued its slide on expectations that there'll be less demand for energy because of the economy. Crude fell \$1 to \$85.92 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The industries that fell the most Wednesday were the ones that have suffered amid worries about the economy this summer: financial and industrial companies and those that sell non-essentials to consumers. Retailers were among the biggest losers.

Wednesday's trading recalled the sharp losses the market has suffered this summer as investors feared that the country was heading toward another recession.

IMF: Financial risks rising in US and Europe

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund says the global financial system faces more challenges than at any point since the 2008 financial crisis.

The Europe's debt crisis is spreading to its banks, which hold government debt and may be forced to pull back on lending to conserve cash.

The U.S. economy is being restrained by its depressed housing market. Many homeowners owe more on their mortgages than their homes are worth. That has limited their ability to spend and is holding back growth.

The IMF urged European banks need to raise more capital to shore up their finances, and if necessary, governments should provide it. And it said the U.S. government should help homeowners reduce their mortgage debt. "Risks are elevated, and time is running out to tackle vulnerabilities that threaten the global financial system and the ongoing economic recovery," the IMF said in its semi-annual Global Financial Stability report.

The crisis in Europe is entering a dangerous new phase. Fears are growing that Greece may default on its debts. That would destabilize other debt-laden European countries, such as Spain and Italy. It would also cause substantial losses at French, German and other banks.

Mulling Meg Whitman: HP considers CEO shakeup

SAN FRANCISCO - As trial balloons go, Hewlett-Packard's not-so-secret handwringing - over whether to dump CEO Leo Apotheker and replace him with former eBay CEO Meg Whitman - was a success. Investors like the idea. News that the company's board is mulling a leadership change pushed the stock up more than 7 percent on Wednesday.

Investors were heartened by yet another turnaround strategy at one of Silicon Valley's oldest, but most publicly dysfunctional, firms. Since joining HP in November, Apotheker's strategic decisions have been drastic, and have done little to inspire confidence. HP's stock is down nearly 50 percent since he took the helm.

HP is facing a classic big-company problem: How to meaningfully grow revenue. But it's also facing an identity crisis. The company's trying to figure out whether it works best as a technology conglomerate that can be all things to all customers, or as a more streamlined operation that does only a few things well.

Facebook users: Get ready for more changes

NEW YORK - Facebook is at it again. The social network is tweaking the home pages of its 750 million users, much to the chagrin of some very vocal folks.

The world's largest online social network is expected to announce even more changes on Thursday, when it holds its annual f8 conference in San Francisco for developers who create games and other applications for its site.

NOW YOU KNOW!

MUSIC: The words "Welcome the Rolling Stones" appear on the cover of 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band' by the Beatles.

FILM: The 'Pink Panther' is a diamond.

HISTORY: The alleged inventor of champagne was called Dom Perignon.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

GENERAL MILLS INC.

NEW YORK - General Mills Inc.'s fiscal first-quarter net income fell 14 percent as one of the nation's biggest food companies continued to deal with high ingredient and energy costs. But adjusted results beat Wall Street's expectations as revenue climbed on increased prices, solid consumer demand and new products.

HEWLETT-PACKARD

NEW YORK - Hewlett-Packard shares were up sharply on Wall Street on Wednesday amid reports that chief executive Leo Apotheker, who was hired less than a year ago, could be on his way out. HP shares were up 7.39 percent at \$24.13 at mid-day.

APPLE

SAN FRANCISCO - Apple plans to unveil its next generation iPhone next month, technology blog AllThingsD said Wednesday. AllThingsD cautioned that Apple could "change its plans anytime," but said the present plan calls for Apple's new chief executive Tim Cook to preside over the launch of the iPhone 5 on October 4.

FOSTER'S

LONDON - Australian beer giant Foster's has accepted an improved takeover offer worth Aus\$9.9 billion (US\$10.16 billion) from British-based brewer SABMiller, the pair announced on Wednesday.

Foster's Group, whose leading lager brands include Corona and Foster's, had in August rejected a hostile bid of Aus\$9.51 billion from SABMiller, which produces rival beers Grolsch and Miller Lite. But Foster's on Wednesday said its board had accepted an improved offer of Aus\$5.10 per Foster's share, while the deal will also see Foster's return some cash to its shareholders.

The gathering follows a trickle of changes to Facebook in the past few of weeks. Some, such as larger photo displays and a feature that makes it easier to group friends into categories, were met with approval - or at least silence, which in the age of social-media oversharing could well be considered an endorsement.

Then came Wednesday, when many users woke up to find their homepages altered, with what Facebook calls "top stories" on the top of their pages, followed by "recent stories" listed in chronological order. On the right side, meanwhile, there's something called a "ticker," a live feed of all the ongoing activity that also appears in users' news feeds. It's a kind of Facebook inside Facebook, if you will.

Google head disputes that company thwarts rivals

WASHINGTON - Google Inc.'s Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt sparred with senators Wednesday during a hearing that repeatedly cast the Internet search leader as a greedy monopolist more driven to expand its empire than to steer Web surfers to the most helpful information.

Schmidt, Google's chief emissary to the government, was put uncomfortably on the defensive as he trumpeted the company as a font of knowledge, innovation and economic opportunity during a 90-minute appearance before a Senate antitrust panel.

"Google does nothing to block access to any of the competitors and other sources of information" in Web searches, Schmidt testified. He acknowledged that Google is "in that area" of being a monopoly company but said it's up to the courts to determine the question. The company recognizes that it has a special responsibility because of its market power, Schmidt said.

In the US, two housing markets and two directions

In America, it's starting to feel as if there are two housing markets. One for the rich and one for everyone else.

Consider foreclosure-ravaged Detroit. In the historic Green Acres district, a haven for hipsters, a pristine, three-bedroom brick Tudor recently sold for \$6,000 - about what a buyer would have paid during the Great Depression.

Yet just 15 miles away, in the posh suburban enclave of Birmingham, bidding wars are back. Multi-million-dollar mansions are selling quickly. Sales this August were up 21 percent from the previous year. The country club has ended its stealth discounts on new memberships. And Main Street's retail storefronts are full.